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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,687	02/20/2004	Edward Behrens	37373-0500	7001
EXAMINER				
BUI, HUNG S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2841				

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

21611 7590 07/17/2006
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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/783,687	EDWARD BEHRENS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hung S. Bui	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/23/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al. [US 6,201,692] in view of Brahm et al. [US 4,654,820].

Regarding claims 1 and 6-7, Gamble et al. disclose an electronic rack system (figure 3) comprising: a rack frame (301) to house one or more electrical device; an interface column (304) coupled to the rack frame, the interface column/backplane including having one or more interfaces (307) for electrically coupling to one or more electrical devices housed in the rack frame.

Gamble et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the interface column having an electrically conductive bus coupled to the one or more interfaces.

Brahm et al. disclose an interface plate (figure 4) having a plurality of interfaces (305) being connected by a plurality of electrically conductive buses (102, 104).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use conductive bus with the interface column of Gamble et al., as suggested by Brahm et al., for the purpose of saving space in the computer rack system and reducing cost of using cable wires.

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Regarding claim 2, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose an interface module (201) coupled to an interface in the interface column, the interface module to uniquely identify an interface and provide access to electrical devices coupled thereto.

Regarding claim 3, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the interface module can be removal without the need to power off other components in the rack (column 1, line 35).

Regarding claim 4, Gamble et al. disclose the interface column extends vertically along a rear portion of rack frame (figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 5, Gamble et al. disclose the number of interfaces in the interface column may be added as they are needed.

Regarding claim 7, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the backplane module including

3. Claims 8-11, 13-15, 17 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al., as modified, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Young et al. [US 6,018,456].

Regarding claims 8-11, 13-15, 17 and 28-30, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for a control module coupled to the interface column.

Young et al. disclose an enclosure (figures 1-3) having at least one controller being connected to a midplane module (34), wherein the controller is configured to provide a connection between electronic devices and the midplane.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add controller cooperated with the frame system of Gamble et al., as modified, as suggested by Young et al., for the purpose of controlling input/output data of the electronic system through the interface column.

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al., as modified, as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Bottom et al. [US 2002/0194412].

Regarding claim 12, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the control module provides keyboard and video access to the interface column.

Bottom et al. disclose a modular server system (figures 1-3) having at least one controller provides keyboard and video access through a connector mounted on a midplane.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the controller design of Bottom et al. in Gamble et al., as modified, as suggested by Bottom et al., for the purpose of input data into the computer rack system.

5. Claims 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al., as modified, as applied to claims 8 and 24 above, and further in view of Orenshteyn [US 2002/0184398].

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Regarding claims 16 and 27, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the control module provides centralization security access to the electrical devices.

Orenshteyn discloses a computer system (figures 1-2) using a controlling device which provides centralization security access to electronic device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the controller design of Orenshteyn, with Gamble et al., as modified, in order to control and secure operating system.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al., as modified, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Coal et al. [US 6,272,573].

Regarding claim 18, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for a dual redundant power supply electrically coupled to the electronic devices housed in the rack system.

Coal et al. disclose a data storage system (figures 1-3) using a dual power supply that is redundancy.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the dual power supply with the frame system of Gamble et al., as modified, as suggested by Coal et al., for the purpose of providing a backup power source without disrupting the operation of the system if one of the power supply is failure.

7. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al. [US 6,201,692] in view of Brahm et al. [US 4,654,820] and Young et al. [US 6,018,456].

Regarding claim 24, Gamble et al. disclose an electronic rack system (figure 3) comprising: a rack frame (301) to house one or more electrical device; an interface column (304) coupled to the rack frame, the interface column/backplane including having one or more interfaces (307) for electrically coupling to one or more electrical devices housed in the rack frame.

Gamble et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the interface column having an electrically conductive bus coupled to the one or more interfaces and a control module coupled to the interface column.

Brahm et al. disclose an interface plate (figure 4) having a plurality of interfaces (305) being connected by a plurality of electrically conductive buses (102, 104).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use conductive bus with the interface column of Gamble et al., as suggested by Brahm et al., for the purpose of saving space in the computer rack system and reducing cost of using cable wires.

Young et al. disclose an enclosure (figures 1-3) having at least one controller being connected to a midplane module (34), wherein the controller is configured to provide a connection between electronic devices and the midplane.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add controller cooperated with the frame system of Gamble et al., as modified, as suggested by Young et al., for the purpose of controlling input/output data of the electronic system through the interface column.

8. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamble et al., as modified, as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Bottom et al. [US 2002/0194412].

Regarding claims 25-26, Gamble et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the control module provides keyboard and video access to the interface column.

Bottom et al. disclose a modular server system (figures 1-3) having at least one controller provides keyboard/mouse/serial port and video access through a connector mounted on a midplane and permit electrical devices coupled to the interface column to share a peripheral device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the controller design of Bottom et al. in Gamble et al., as modified, as suggested by Bottom et al., for the purpose of input data into the computer rack system.

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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hung Bui', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

7/09/06

Hung Bui

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